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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,790	09/15/2003	Rudolph Bergsma	02-ASD-332 (GT)	9516
200	7590	05/02/2006	EXAMINER	
EATON CORPORATION EATON CENTER 1111 SUPERIOR AVENUE CLEVELAND, OH 44114			JIMENEZ, MARC QUEMUEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3726	

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,790

Applicant(s)

BERGSMA ET AL.

Examiner

Marc Jimenez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 12-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-22-05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Newly submitted claim 4 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

The original claims were drawn to the embodiment of figure 2 having the twist locking feature claimed in previous claim 2, 3, and 7 and having the one-way valve feature as recited in previous claim 8. Claim 4 has been amended to remove the “one way” valve feature (60 figure 2) and to add the “vent valve” feature. Therefore, the vent valve feature (26) of claim 4 is found in the embodiment of figure 1. Applicant has received an action on the merits for the invention of figure 2 which is considered Species A. Figure 1 is considered Species B.

In addition, newly submitted claims 12-22 are drawn to “a system”. The originally presented invention was directed to “a method”.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 4 and 12-22 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benjey (US5083583) in view of Foltz (US6637778).

Benjey teaches a method of mounting a pass-through on a fuel tank comprising:
forming an access opening in the wall of the tank **38**, the access opening having an edge,
disposing a locking ring **40** over the access opening and attaching the ring **40** to the exterior of the tank **38**, the locking ring **40** having an undercut surface (hole **44**),
providing a pass-through **12** with a resilient sealing ring **18** thereon,
disposing a portion of the pass-through **12** in the access opening and locating the sealing ring **18** on the edge of the access opening (figure 1), and,
securing the pass-through **12** against the undercut surface **44** of the locking ring **40** and retaining the sealing ring **18** against the edge of the access opening.

Regarding claim 2, note the twist locking feature **42** in the locking ring **40** (the pass through is inside the locking ring **40** and therefore is “twist locked” in the locking ring).

Regarding claim 6, note the groove **20**.

Benjey teaches the invention cited above with the exception of the fuel tank being made of plastic.

Foltz teaches a plastic fuel tank **16**.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided the invention of Benjey with a plastic fuel tank, in light of the teachings of Foltz, in order to provide a more light weight fuel tank. Official notice is taken that

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the use of the same type of plastic for both the locking ring and fuel tank is well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, in order to simplify manufacturing steps by using the same materials.

4. **Claims 10-11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benjey in view of Foltz as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Benjey (US2003/0094763).

Benjey/Foltz teaches the invention cited above with the exception of having an embedded vapor barrier.

Benjey ('763) teaches an embedded vapor barrier (figure 5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided the invention of Benjey with an embedded vapor barrier, in light of the teachings of Benjey ('763), in order to seal the fuel tank assembly.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3, 7, 8 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Interviews After Final

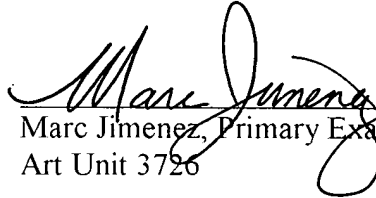
8. Applicant note that an interview after a final rejection will not be granted unless the intended purpose and content of the interview is presented briefly, in writing (the agenda of the interview must be in writing) to clarify issues for appeal requiring only nominal further consideration. Interviews merely to restate arguments of record or to discuss new limitations will be denied. See MPEP 714.13 and 713.09.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc Jimenez whose telephone number is (571) 272-4530. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Marc Jimenez, Primary Examiner
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MJ

4-24-06